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MILITARY

Negative

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Desp. No. 253
From Moscow

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Death of Hammarskjold. The Soviet press promptly reported the death of HAMMARSKJOLD and initially avoided giving any expression of sympathy or indication of how energetically the Soviets will exploit this event in pursuit of their campaign to reorg[anize] the UN along troika lines. On September 20, however, the press p[ublished] the text of the September 19 Security Council statement on Hamma[rskjold]. Despite the Soviet reservations this statement contains, it gives the impression that Hammarskjold was generally regarding abroad as an outstanding international figure and contributor to world peace, thus conflicting with the Soviet propaganda projection of Hammarskjold as an agent of colonial interests and as a pariah in the eyes of "truly progressive" nations.

Other Soviet press material on Hammarskjold and the circumstances of his death conveyed contradictory impressions. Some press reports said Hammarskjold was on his way to meet TSHOMBE, presumably to cook up some new plot against the integrity of the Congo, while others pointed up suspicions that Hammarskjold's plane was shot down by Katanga separatists. TASS despatches about the military situation in the Congo suggested that Hammarskjold's policies were aimed at strengthening the central government, a goal which the Soviet regime itself proclaims.

2. Opening of UNGA. The opening of the UN General Assembly and election of new officers were factually reported by the Soviet press. Comment on the atmosphere in New York has been sparse, and mainly devoted to the Chinese representation question. The Soviet press claims the US is headed for an expensive political defeat on this issue.

Izvestiya, on September 19, gave guarded support in its leading editorial to the idea of moving the United Nations headquarters to West Berlin, ascribing it to "some prominent social and political leaders" and characterizing it as an added evidence of "what favorable possibilities would be created for West Berlin by its transformation into a demilitarized free city." There was no indication in the editorial that the most prominent of the social and political leaders whose idea this is said to be is N. S. Khrushchev, who mooted the proposal in a discussion with the French politician Paul Reynaud on September 15.

Only minimal factual coverage was given the RUSK-GROMYKO luncheon meeting on September 21.

3. Berlin/Germany. There were some signs that the Soviets are getting ready to negotiate on Berlin and are probing the West with new possibilities, such as transfering the UN from New York to Berlin (see above). This reportedly was the main impression carried away by Reynaud after a 3½-hour talk with Khrushchev.

Such information as could be obtained about Khrushchev's meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister SPAAK on September 19, indicated that the latter was more optimistic about the prospects for a peaceful settlement as a result of the encounter.

The Berlin air corridors stayed in the news with the "violation of GDR airspace" by the two FRG F-84 jets. The Soviet protest note against this action was delivered to the Western Embassies concerned in Moscow by messenger on Sunday, September 17.

The German elections were reported in the Soviet press as a defeat for Adenauer and his policies. A Pravda comment, however, expressed alarm that a majority of the FRG population supported parties which do not demand a basic change in Bonn's current foreign policy.

4. Cuba. The Cuban delegation led by President DORTICOS departed from the USSR on September 21 after signing a joint communique endorsing Soviet positions on Berlin, nuclear tests, and the troika. The communique carefully distinguished Cuba from the rest of the bloc and omitted any reference to Guantanamo.

Throughout the Dorticos visit, Cuban CP leader Blas ROCA was given listed prominence and, in the Joint Communique signed on September 20, he was ahead of Foreign Minister ROA as a member of Dorticos' party.

5. Nuclear Testing. The resumption of underground testing in the U.S. has been reported in the Soviet press with one or two sentence despatches. The second test was reported under the caption, "Still Another American Nuclear Explosion." The Soviet press played up TASS despatches from Tokyo reporting that the Japanese were indignant over the resumption of tests by the U.S., but continued to maintain its silence about the current series of Soviet test explosions.

6. Iran. On September 15, the Soviet press published a statement signed by Iranian Army Major Djelal MORTAZAVI asking the Soviet Government for political asylum. A subsequent news report based on an interview with Mortazavi stated that the Iranian Army Major had been granted asylum and was now in Moscow. According to press accounts, Mortazavi denounced the Iranian Government, alleged that the Iranian administration and army were under the domination of the U.S., and said that he intends to struggle for the establishment of a neutral regime in Iran. Mortazavi reportedly had taken military courses in the U.S. in 1955 and 1961 and in West Germany in 1958.

7. Visits.

(a) Paul Reynaud, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the National Assembly of France, who visited Moscow in connection with the French National Exhibition here, met with Khrushchev on September 15.

(b) An Iraqi military delegation headed by Brigadier General Jalal JAAFAR AL-AUKATI was received by Khrushchev on September 16.

(c) Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, SUBANDRIO, acting as the personal representative of President SUKARNO, met with Khrushchev on September 16, evidently to discuss the international situation in the light of the Belgrade Conference.

(d) Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Spaak visited Moscow on the invitation of Khrushchev and was received by the latter on September 19.

(e) A Congo Republic delegation from Brazzaville, led by Minister of Planning A. MASSAMBA-DEBA, met with Khrushchev on September 19. A personal message from President YOULOU was handed to Khrushchev by the delegation.

(f) A Japanese Communist Party delegation headed by Party General Secretary Kenji MIYAMOTO was received by the Central Committee of the CPSU on September 19.

(g) Ghanaian President NKRUMAH ended a series of comings and goings stretching over a period of two months with his departure for Accra on September 16 from the Crimea, where he had been vacationing.

(h) The Soviets announced on September 20 that GAGARIN will visit Genoa, Italy, for Columbus Day.

(i) CPSU Presidium member KOZLOV returned to the USSR on September 20 after a visit to North Korea to attend the Congress of the Korean Labor (Communist) Party.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

8. Leadership: Moscow Speculation Concerning Presidium Figures A. V. Aristov, N. V. Podgorny, and V. V. Grishin.

Two new hints suggest to some informed Moscow observers that ARISTOV will be dropped officially as a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party following the Party's XXII Congress, scheduled to begin October 17.

(1) His portrait was the only one omitted from a display of portraits of Presidium members at the September 10 dedication of the Volzhsky hydroelectric project near Stalingrad, at which Khrushchev was the main speaker.

(2) He and PODGORNY were the only Presidium members not elected by "Communists of Moscow" as delegates to the XXII Congress. Podgorny will most probably be selected as a delegate by the Ukrainian Party, of which he is First Secretary. Aristov has no comparable "constituency."

Only two candidate members of the Presidium, G. I. VORONOV and V.V.GRISHIN, were honored by inclusion among the "delegates" elected by the Moscow Party organizations. This may be an early indication that two will be promoted to full Presidium membership following the Congress. (Airgram No.A-219 of September 22, 1961.)

9. Republic Congresses and Other Preparations for the XXII Congress. On September 14, the Communist Party of Turkmenistan convened its XVII Congress at which the draft Party Program and Statute were approved and a new Central Committee (CC) and Auditing Commission elected. Like the Azerbaidzhanian Party Congress (Weeka No. 37, September 15, 1961), this Congress, too, "renewed" well over one-third of the former membership of these top organs. In addition, a new Turkmen CC secretary, one B. N. MORALEV, was elected. Moralew may be a Russian brought to Turkmenistan as a Moscow watchdog. In general, like the Azerbaidzhanian Congress, the Turkmenistan Congress applied "renewal" provisions of the draft Party Statute to the rank-and-file apparatchiki of the Party and not to the top leadership of the Republic Party (Despatch No. 256, Sept. 22, 1961).

Some idea of the scale on which the draft Program and Statute are being "discussed" all over the Soviet Union at pre-Congress meetings is provided by Pravda, September 19, which states that "by the beginning of September over 6,673,000 Communists had discussed the draft Program at Party meetings and Party conferences, /and/ ... about thirteen and one-half million persons had discussed the draft Program at workers' meetings at which more than 622,000 persons have spoken."

A third Republic congress, that of the Tadzhik SSR Party, opened on schedule in Stalinabad on September 21. This additional evidence indicating that previously announced schedules are being followed, plus the ever increasing pre-Congress ballyhoo disseminated by all propaganda media, explains the diminishing credibility accorded the unconfirmed Moscow rumor that the XXII Congress might be postponed (A-177, Sept. 8).

10. Soldiers Informed that the Red Army Will Not "Wither Away." P. S. ROMASHKIN, Director of the /formerly Vyshinsky/ Institute of State and Law, in an article entitled "The New Phase of Growth of the Soviet State," undertakes to explore current Soviet concepts on how the "withering away" of the state will actually come to pass under Communism (Red Star, September 19, 1961). He repeats assertions (also found in the draft Program) that the Soviet Army is not necessary for internal needs, but only to guard Socialism against "imperialist states not wishing to reconcile themselves with the existence of the peaceful socialist system."

Noting that only revisionists would understand the concept of the "withering away" of the state to mean its gradual weakening or abrogation of the organization of public life, Romashkin claims that "on the contrary, the interests of the building of Communism demand the steadfast strengthening of socialist government."

Romaskin writes: "The defense of the socialist homeland, and the strengthening of the defense of the USSR and the power of the Soviet armed forces during the period of the building of Communism, is considered by the CPSU as a holy duty of the Party and of all of the Soviet people, and the most important function of the socialist state."

11. Two Boosts for Atheism. In one of the continuing series of letters in praise of the Party Program and Statute, N. MIRONOV, Chairman of the Section on Scientific Atheism attached to the Buryat Section of the Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge, proposes amending the draft Program to include the statement that "every Communist should be an active atheist" (Pravda, September 21, 1961). In effect, Mironov is reiterating a thought expressed in a letter published in Pravda on September 4, 1961, which, while praising the draft Program's rather mild paragraph on religion, makes the same suggestion. Mironov attributes the fact that much atheistic propaganda does not achieve its purpose to the "outdated views" of "some Communists" who are influenced by wives or other members of the family having religious tendencies.

12. Three Soviet War-Criminals Sentenced to be Shot. As the result of trials held during the past week, the death sentence has been pronounced upon three Soviet citizens accused of having collaborated with the German occupation during the Second World War. These trials seem to be designed to recall the grim days of the occupation and are an integral part of the current intensive, venomous, and varied Soviet anti-German campaign (Airgram 218, September 22).

13. New First Secretary Identified for North Ossetian ASSR. In announcing the results of elections held at various oblast Party Committee plenums as one of the preliminaries to the coming XXII Party Congress, Sovietskaya Rossiya (September 22, 1961) announced the election of B. Ye. KABALOYEV as First Secretary of the North Ossetian ASSR. The previous First Secretary, V. M. AGKATSEV, a member of the CPSU-CC Central Auditing Commission, was accorded honors on his 50th birthday on April 21 (Pravda, April 22, 1961), and was not known to be in disfavor.

MILITARY

Negative

For the Ambassador:

R. T. Davies
First Secretary of Embassy

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